

# Ex-CIAer: Plot to Kill Castro Didn't

Washington, July 22 (News Bureau)—A former high CIA official said that Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy "wasn't terribly perturbed" when told of an abortive CIA plot to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro, but was "angry" that the spy agency worked through the Mafia on the assassination attempt.

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Former CIA general counsel Lawrence Houston, speaking to reporters during an intermission of his testimony before a House government operations subcommittee, said that when he was subsequently told of the 1962 attempt on Castro's life that Kennedy was "angry, instead, about us getting with the Mafia. He said that if we were going to have anything to do with the Mafia, come to see him."

Assassination Talks in 1960  
In the most detailed account yet of a CIA attempt to kill Castro, Houston disclosed that Richard Bissell, CIA chief of clandestine services, discussed assassination possibilities in 1960 with Sheffield Edwards, who headed the CIA office of security. The assassination attempt was called off following the Bay of Pigs disaster in 1961.

Houston said that he had no indication that anyone above Bissell knew of or approved of the assassination plots. Houston said that Kennedy learned of the plot for the first time a year after it was hatched and said nothing to show that he approved. On the

other hand, Houston stressed repeatedly that Kennedy did not seem concerned when told of the murder plans.

## Maheu, Contacted Rosselli

Houston said that Edwards, who died recently, signed up John Rosselli, a top lieutenant of slain Chicago Mafia boss Sam (Momo) Giancana for the assassination. Rosselli was actually contacted by Robert Maheu, an ex-aidé of billionaire Howard Hughes, posing as a representative of a company secretly controlled by the CIA.

The reason the CIA went to the Justice Department at all, Houston said, was because Rosselli and Giancana were being prosecuted.

Kennedy, told that the two had been in sensitive CIA operations, did not prosecute. Rosselli was later convicted, however, on a charge unrelated to any CIA activity. The aging Giancana was slain last month in his Oak Park, Ill., home.

Rosselli purportedly was involved in six attempts to shoot or poison Castro but Houston could not recall the other cases.

He had no explanation as to why the CIA resumed its attempts against Castro under the supervision of William Harvey.

## Reveals Crimes of CIA

Houston also revealed a list of crimes committed by the CIA over the years in testimony before the subcommittee, headed by Rep. Bella Abzug (D-Manhattan).

A 20-year CIA-Justice agreement giving the spy agency the right to decide who will be prosecuted has been termed as "improper and probably illegal," by Mrs. Abzug.

Houston disclosed 20 cases which were forwarded to the Justice Department for prosecution, including that of an employee who embezzled \$20,000, and another staffer who faked \$15,000 in medical expenses.

## Ford Won't Reopen Probe

In another development, White House Press Secretary Ron Nessen said that President Ford "has seen no evidence" that would cause him to ask for re-

# Faze RFK

opening of the Warren Commission investigation into President Kennedy's assassination.

Sen. Richard Schweiker (R-Pa.), a Senate Intelligence Committee member, said Sunday that the probe should be reopened because the commission was not told about the CIA Director Allen Dulles was a commission member.

Nessen declined to say whether the Warren Commission — Ford was a member — was ever told of the CIA involvement.

Meanwhile, the new House Intelligence Committee was organized under the chairmanship of Rep. Otis Pike (D-Riverhead). Rep. Don Edwards (D-Calif.), an ex-FBI agent, resigned from the committee, saying that he would have too much work on a House Judiciary subcommittee he heads. Rep. William Lehman (D-Fla.) replaced him.

Kennedy, Robert F

CIA 4.01 ASSASSINATION

OR 91 MAFIA

CASTRO, Fidel

CIA 1.03 Bissell, Richard

CIA 1.04 EDWARDS,

Sheffield

L. Harvey, Wm.

Schweiker, Richard